

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT  
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4  
Columbia River Compact  
September 13, 2001**

**PURPOSE:** Review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider non-Indian fishing options.

**TAC:** The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this fact sheet.

## Management Guidelines

### ***Endangered Species Act***

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
<b>Species - ESU</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
<b><u>Federally Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Chinook</u></b>		
<i>Snake River Fall</i>	Threatened	May 22, 1992
<i>Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Chum</u></b>		
<i>Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<b><u>Steelhead</u></b>		
<i>Snake River</i>	Threatened	October 17, 1997
<i>Upper Columbia River</i>	Endangered	October 17, 1997
<i>Middle Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<i>Lower Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<b><u>Cutthroat Trout</u></b>		
<i>Southwest Washington</i>	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<b><u>Oregon State Listed Species</u></b>		
<b><u>Coho</u></b>		
<i>Lower Columbia</i>	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- Coho salmon in the lower Columbia ESU are currently under review for listing under the Federal ESA.
- Lower Columbia River chum impacts in non-Indian fisheries will be managed not to exceed 5% and expected to be about 2%.
- Combined ocean and freshwater fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild coho destined for Oregon tributaries to no more than 15%, as per the 2001 incidental take permit issued by the OFWC.
- A Biological Opinion concerning fall fisheries in the Columbia River was signed on August 10, 2001.

### ***2001 Management Agreement***

- The states and tribes reached an agreement for management of 2001 fall fisheries. The 2001 Management Agreement allocates the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.

- Based on results of the North of Falcon negotiation process the non-Indian impact rate of 8.25% is allocated 4.90% for sport fisheries and 3.35% for commercial fisheries. Fall chinook catch expectations associated with these impact levels are 19,300 sport catch and 17,200 commercial catch.
- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 2% impact rate on Group B wild index steelhead.
- Ocean and non-Indian freshwater fisheries will be managed to provide for at least 50% of the upriver coho run to pass Bonneville Dam.
- Treaty Indian fall fisheries for 2001 will be managed according to the Fall Season Management Agreement to not exceed a 23.04% impact rate on URB fall chinook and 15% on wild Group B Index steelhead.

## **Water Conditions**

### ***Flow Updates***

- Flows have been unusually low this summer with flow measured at Bonneville Dam exceeding 100 kcfs only twice during the time period of July 5-August 6.
- During August, flows increased but remained low with flows measured at Bonneville Dam ranging between 86 kcfs and 126 kcfs during August 7-31.
- During the first 11 days of September, flows ranged between 76 kcfs and 95 kcfs and averaged 85 kcfs.

### ***Temperature Updates***

- Water temperatures, as measured at Bonneville Dam, typically peak during the first half of August and subsequently decline slowly during the last half of August and early September.
- Water temperatures were below recent year averages during the month of August with temperature measured at Bonneville Dam not exceeding 70°F for the month.
- Water temperatures at Bonneville Dam decreased from 69°F to 67°F during the first 11 days of September.

## **Stock Status**

### ***Summer Steelhead***

- To date 54% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have passed The Dalles Dam, which is 117% of the recent 10-year average of 46%.
- The record large return of 28,700 Skamania index steelhead (20,700 hatchery and 8,000 wild) more than doubled the preseason forecast of 12,000 (9,000 hatchery and 3,000 wild).
- Group A index steelhead returns typically peak in August with 86% of the hatchery fish and 92% of the wild fish passing Bonneville Dam by September 11.
- Group B index steelhead typically peak in September with 45% of the hatchery fish and 63% of the wild fish passing Bonneville Dam by September 11.

<b>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</b>					
		Cumulative Total Through September 11			
		Sept. 11	2001	2000	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Skamania Index	-----	28,700	16,600	7,200
	Group A Index	4,954	467,900	196,700	154,700
	Group B Index	3,547	37,600	23,000	44,700
	Total	8,501	534,200	236,300	206,600
The Dalles		10,523	290,900	137,500	85,400
John Day		11,644	172,900	103,700	60,600
McNary		5,626	139,200	58,900	42,800
Ice Harbor		1,476	60,700	33,300	26,900
Lower Granite		1,500	31,300	18,100	10,700
Priest Rapids		379	18,600	7,800	4,400

- Returns of wild fish date have comprised 28% of the Group A index return and 19% of the Group B index return.

<b>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</b>										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total
1984	52,500	27	143,200	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	19	38,400	81	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,800	78	57,500
1993	28,700	21	108,000	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	19	22,300	81	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,900	14	11,300	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,700	85	174,400	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,300	85	208,200	3,900	11	32,800	89	36,700
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	9	36,900	91	40,300
1999	56,600	32	119,900	68	176,500	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
2000	63,600	29	153,100	71	216,700	8,400	21	32,500	79	40,900
<b>2001 Proj.</b>	<b>132,700</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>374,200</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>506,900</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>48,500</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>58,000</b>

- Based on counts through September 11 the TAC updated Group B run sizes to 48,500 hatchery fish and 9,500 wild fish.
- Preseason forecasts were for 201,300 Group A index steelhead, including 49,000 wild fish and 152,300 hatchery fish, and 36,000 Group B index steelhead, including 27,100 hatchery fish and 8,900 wild fish.
- A return of 593,600 summer steelhead to the Columbia River would represent the largest return on record (since 1938) and more than doubles the preseason prediction of 254,000.

### **Fall Chinook**

- Observation of fall chinook passing Bonneville Dam began on August 15 to determine tule/bright stock proportions.

<b>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</b>					
		Sept. 11 Daily	Cumulative through September 11		
			2001	2000	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Bright	11,654	178,900	137,000	117,500
	Tules	5,980	102,700	19,900	23,400
	Total Counts	17,634	281,600	156,000	140,900
The Dalles		8,912	98,400	93,600	63,100
John Day		6,553	56,700	69,600	41,400
McNary		5,386	34,800	41,700	27,900
Priest Rapids		389	8,800	22,500	10,000
Ice Harbor		330	3,500	3,100	1,400
Lower Granite		150	1,400	1,200	400

- Typically, 69% of the bright adult return and 75% of the tule adult run passes Bonneville Dam through September 11.
- Based on counts through September 11 the TAC updated river mouth run sizes to 264,600 brights and 125,000 tules.
- An estimated 30,000 LRH stock fall chinook have been accounted for in lower river fisheries and hatchery returns to date.

<b>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</b>					
Stock	1995-1999 Average	2000 Return	2001 Preseason Forecast	9/10/01 Update	9/12/01 Update
URB	144,100	155,900	132,700	190,000	205,300
SRW	1,800	1,977	7,600	7,600	7,600
MCB	47,800	35,200	45,300	44,400	59,300
BPH	32,900	20,100	61,900	109,000	125,000
LRH	52,700	27,000	30,500	30,500	60,000
LRW	10,700	10,200	18,500	18,500	18,500
LRB	NA	1,500	2,400	2,400	2,400
SAB	4,200	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Total	289,000	253,300	292,300	405,800	473,900

- A total of 7,600 males, 6,500 females, and 5,500 jacks have returned to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 11. The escapement goal of 7,000 adults, including 4,000 females, has been achieved.
- Returns to Big Creek Hatchery have exceeded the escapement goal of 3,000 adults and have been comprised of 8,000 males, 4,000 females, and 2,200 jacks through September 11.
- Returns of jack fall chinook have been strong to date with 30,000 brights and 20,800 tules (including adult-size jacks) counted at Bonneville Dam through September 11. Typically, 81% of tule jacks and 36% of bright jacks pass Bonneville Dam through September 11.

## **Sport Fishery Updates**

### ***Buoy 10 Fishery***

- The retention of chinook was disallowed beginning August 30 when the 8,800 adult chinook catch guideline was projected to be reached. In conjunction with the chinook retention restriction the salmon daily catch limit was increased to four fish. All coho kept must be adipose fin-clipped.
- An estimated 110,500 angler trips through September 9 resulted in an estimated 12,000 chinook (10,200 adults) and 123,100 coho being retained.
- Effective Saturday, September 15, chinook retention will be allowed at Buoy 10, due to the significant increase in the URB run size forecast. The daily limit of four fish can include 1 chinook.

### ***Lower Columbia River Fishery***

- The mainstem Columbia River (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and coho on August 1. Nonadipose fin-clipped coho must be released downstream from John Day Dam. Daily adult salmon catch limit is two fish per day.
- An estimated 1,500 adult chinook were landed during the month of August from 42,000 angler trips.
- Effort has been high during September with over 1,100 boats counted on Saturday September 1, over 700 boats counted on Wednesday September 5, and 700 boats on Saturday September 8.
- Catch rates have declined from a peak of 1 adult chinook for every 1-2 boats to 1 adult chinook for every 3-4 boats.
- The estimated adult chinook catch for September 1-11 is 4,400 (5,900 season total) from 26,000 angler trips (68,500 season total).
- An estimated 4,100 marked steelhead were retained and 1,800 unmarked steelhead were released during the month of August.

## ***Fisheries Above Bonneville Dam***

- During the last half of August the sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River had catch rates of 0.11 chinook, 0.11 marked steelhead kept, and 0.08 unmarked steelhead released per angler.
- Some chinook are being caught near the river mouths of the Washington tributaries in the Bonneville Pool.
- The Hanford Reach sport fishery opened on August 16. Effort and catch are beginning to increase. Last week, boat anglers averaged 1 chinook per every 1.5 rods.

## **Commercial Fishery Updates**

### ***Non-Indian Fisheries***

- To date an estimated 9,400 white sturgeon have been landed in lower river commercial fisheries which slightly exceeds the 9,100 fish catch limit. Sturgeon retention will be disallowed in all commercial fisheries, including Select Areas, throughout the remainder of the year.

<b><i>Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Update</i></b>							
Stock	Aug 4-9	Aug 2S	Select Areas				
			Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
URB	469	2,359					
BPH	652	1,078					
MCB	58	740					
LRH	500	179					
LRW	139	0					
LRB	0	0					
SAB	231	0					
Others	24	24					
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>2,074</i>	<i>4,380</i>	<i>1,284</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Coho	292	375	142	0	0	0	0
W. Sturgeon	4,741	1,025	24	0	0	0	0
G. Sturgeon	320	3	0	0	0	0	0

- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week through the end of October and landings are expected to total 1,000-2,000 chinook and 175,000 coho. Based on LV clips an estimated 95% of the fall chinook landed in Youngs Bay to date have been SAB's.
- Other Select Area fisheries are currently open four nights per week through the end of October with a total coho catch expectation of 92,000; comprised of 21,000 in Tongue Point, 18,000 in Blind Slough, 36,000 in Deep River, and 17,000 in Steamboat Slough.
- Commercial fishing effort in Select Area fisheries is low due to ongoing price negotiations.
- At the previous hearing the Compact adopted a small scale coho tangle net test fishery consisting of six fishing days in the mainstem Columbia River below Longview Bridge during the first two weeks of September. Upriver Bright impacts for this portion of the test fishery are projected to be 0.05%.
- Additional fishing time for the coho tangle net test fishery may be adopted at future Compact hearings.

## Non-Indian Fishery Proposals

### **Mainstem Target Coho Fishery**

<b>Recommendation</b>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of one of the two options for commercial target coho fishing periods:	
Season: Option 1	7 AM to 7 PM Monday September 17 (12 hours) 7 AM to 7 PM Tuesday September 18 (12 hours) 7 AM to 7 PM Wednesday September 19 (12 hours)
Option 2	7 AM to 7 PM Monday September 17 (12 hours) 7 AM to 7 PM Wednesday September 19 (12 hours) 7 AM to 7 PM Thursday September 20 (12 hours)
Area:	Mouth upstream to Longview Bridge.
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay and Elokomina A.
Gear:	Unslackened floater gill nets with 6 inch maximum mesh size restriction
Allowable Sales:	Salmon only. No sturgeon sales allowed.
Expected Catch	30,000 – 60,000 coho 2,500 – 3,500 chinook

- ✓ Proposed fishery options are consistent with 2001 Management Agreement and North of Falcon negotiations.
- ✓ Allows access to surplus early stock hatchery reared coho salmon.
- ✓ Closure above Longview Bridge reduces impacts on Oregon state listed coho.
- ✓ Impacts to Oregon state listed coho are expected to remain within the 15% impact limit set forth in the incidental take permit issued by the OFWC.
- ✓ The 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction and daylight only fishing limits impacts on fall chinook salmon.
- ✓ In conjunction with proposed target coho fishing periods, allows majority of lower river to be open for commercial fishing.
- ✓ Option 2 includes an non-fishing day on Tuesday September 18 to increase ability to market fish.

### **Mainstem Target Chinook Fishery**

<b>Recommendation</b>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial target chinook fishing period:	
Season:	8 PM Wednesday September 19 to 6 AM Thursday, September 20.
Area:	I-205 bridge upstream to Beacon Rock
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy rivers
Gear:	8" minimum mesh size restriction
Allowable Sales:	Salmon only. No sturgeon sales allowed.
Expected Catch	2,000 – 3,000 chinook

- ✓ Proposed fishery options are consistent with 2001 Management Agreement and North of Falcon negotiations.
- ✓ Increased URB run size has resulted in additional impacts being available for a target chinook commercial fishery.
- ✓ Lower fishing boundary at I-205 Bridge is consistent with past September 2S target salmon fisheries.
- ✓ Night fishing increases chinook catch and reduces interaction between commercial fishers and recreational boaters and anglers.
- ✓ The 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction will minimize impacts on Oregon state listed wild coho salmon.
- ✓ In conjunction with proposed target coho fishing periods, allows majority of lower river to be open for commercial fishing.

### **Select Area Fishery**

- Modify the ongoing Deep River Select Area coho fishery by adopting an additional fishing period on Sunday night for the entire season.

<b>Recommendation</b>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial salmon fishing periods:	
Season:	7 PM Sunday to 7 AM Monday during September 9-29 (12 hour periods) 6 PM Sunday to 8 AM Monday during September 30-October 31 (14 hour periods)
Area:	Deep River fishing area
Gear:	6" maximum mesh size restriction
Allowable Sales:	Salmon only. No sturgeon sales allowed.

- ✓ Would allow additional fishing opportunity for large number of coho expected to return to Deep River.
- ✓ Participants in this fishery support the additional fishing period.
- ✓ Fishing periods are consistent with previously adopted season.

### **Monofilament Gillnets**

- Compact Action is required to allow the use of monofilament gill nets in non-Indian commercial fisheries, including Select Areas.

<b>Recommendation</b>
The Joint Staff recommends that the use of monofilament gill nets be allowed in 2001 fall commercial fisheries occurring in the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam including Select Areas effective Sunday September 16, 2001.

- ✓ Coincides with initiation of mainstem target coho fisheries.
- ✓ Consistent with results of August 17 Compact hearing.

## Impacts Summary

Summary of Fishery Impacts During Fall of 2001			
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts	
		No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries			
August C&S	300	140	0.07
Commercial through Sep 8	64,795	22,747	11.97
Proposed Commercial	61,600	18,600	9.8
Late Fall C&S	260	200	0.11
Treaty Indian Total	126,955	41,687	21.9
Non-Indian Fisheries			
August Sturgeon/Salmon Commercial	2,074	469	0.23
August 2S Commercial	4,380	2,359	1.15
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	3,360	110	0.05
Buoy 10 Sport	11,423	2,097	1.02
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	10,000	4,830	2.35
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	1,270	900	0.44
Coho Tangle Test Fishery	300	96	0.05
September 17-20 Coho	3,500	1,300	0.64
September 19 Zone 4-5	3,000	1,000	0.49
Remaining Commercial Fisheries	11,130	3,790	1.83
Non-Indian Total	50,400	17,000	8.25
Grand Total	177,355	58,687	28.55

- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead are projected to total 1.6% for all non-Indian fisheries.
- Ocean and freshwater fishery impacts to Oregon state listed wild coho destined for Lower Columbia River tributaries are projected to total 11.4% with a 14.3% impact rate on early stock and a 8.9% impact rate on late stock.

## Future Compact Hearing

- The next Compact hearing is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Monday, September 17, 2001, at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, headquarters commission room located at 2501 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
September 12, 2001